

# Easter Monday At Bourg

By GEORGE H. PICARD

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JUST when the egg began to cut such an important figure in the celebration of the Easter festival is still a subject of grave dispute. It is perfectly clear, however, that the good people of the early middle ages knew all about it. The folklore of that period makes frequent reference to the part played by the egg in Easter doings, and there have been handed down numerous entertaining stories about it. One of them tells how a very beautiful young woman secured a noble husband through its agency.

Her name was Margaret, and she was a royal princess, the daughter of the Emperor Maximilian of Germany. She was born at Ghent in 1490, and although that is a long time ago, her fame as an attractive young person still survives. When one looks on her fair face as the old time painters have depicted her it seems incredible that she should have found it difficult to provide herself with a suitable husband. Yet it happened so.

When she was still an infant Margaret was betrothed to Charles VIII. of France. Of course the tiny princess had no opportunity to say nay, and she grew to maidenhood in the belief that her matrimonial affairs were all settled. Her royal lover proved faithless. The charms of Anne of Brittany made him indifferent to the fact that he had promised to become the son-in-law of the German emperor, and he married her. Margaret was only eleven, altogether too young to lose her beauty sleep over the matter. Her father was exceedingly wroth, but nothing dreadful came of it. He waited until his heirless was seventeen and married her to Don Juan of Spain, son of Ferdinand and Isabella.

Almost before Margaret had made her new husband's acquaintance, even before he had had an opportunity to introduce his bride to the Spanish court, he fell sick and died. Under the circumstances Margaret was not inconsolable, but she waited another four years before she began to scan the matrimonial horizon in search of No. 2. Her experience had taught her one thing—in future she purposed doing her own selecting, with no aid from anybody except Providence.

Finally, at the age of twenty-one, more beautiful than ever, the young widow put off her weeds and notified Providence that the game was on. In order that she might enlist the services of her patron saint she set out on a pilgrimage to a shrine in the south of France. That Providence was taking a lively interest in the business is evident from the sequel.

It was not even required of her that she should complete her pilgrimage. Midway of the journey the princess and her party halted at the little village of Bourg for a few days' rest. It was a charming spot in the mountain region of the Cevennes, with great, dark forests on every side.

It happened to be the Easter tide. On Easter Monday the chateleine of the castle at which the princess was a guest proposed that a party should be made up to attend the village games. Margaret accepted the proposition with enthusiasm. For a long time she watched the varying scene with the liveliest interest. The day was perfect. The air was soft and genial, and Nature was in her most amiable mood. Luncheon was served in the open, and afterward the great personages put aside their state and joined in the dance.

Toward the middle of the afternoon came the great event of the day, the famous egg contest of Bourg. Several men in holiday attire advanced, each with a basket on his arm containing the gayly colored eggs which were to be used in the contest. There were twelve dozen of these in all, and one by one they were distributed over the field in a series of figures. When all was ready the music changed to a stately measure and a young man and his chosen partner stepped forward and began the dance. It was a serious matter for the dancers, for on their success in making the perilous passage of the figures depended their future happiness. Three trials were accorded to each couple, and the on-lookers made themselves exceedingly merry over the affair, but the principals in the contest were anxious and uncertain countenances. It was the couple that could glide over the eggs and pass among them in all the varied movements of the dance without cracking a single one that might marry in spite of the opposition of the parents. It was one of the most highly cherished privileges of the young men and maidens of Bourg.

Just as this all important business of

the day was at its busiest a bold blast of a hunter's horn came from the edge of the forest. It was followed speedily by the appearance of a company of mounted gallants in such splendid attire that the peasants stopped in the dance to gaze open mouthed at the apparition. The Princess Margaret and her party were almost equally amazed to behold such splendor issuing from the forest. At the head of the troop, on a spirited white charger, rode a young man whose rich dress and knightly bearing proclaimed him to be a person of great consequence.

Without further preliminary he rode directly to the side of the chateleine of Bourg, sprang from his horse, doffed his plumed hat and, bending a graceful knee, requested her hospitality for himself and his men.

"Sir, I am honored in the asking," she responded graciously, for she knew that her would be guest was Philibert the Handsome, duke of Savoy.

The duke and his gentlemen were presented to the princess, and the dance was resumed. From the first it was apparent to the entire company that the young man whose beauty was the theme of every court in Europe had no eyes for the rustic festivity. Margaret, too, her hostess discovered, had abandoned her interest in the dance and had transferred it elsewhere. At last the lady of Bourg made bold to rally the beautiful widow on her listlessness.

"I fear, madame," she said smilingly, "that our Easter sport is becoming tiresome."

"Not at all," declared the princess. "I only wish I were one of your good peasants so that I might engage in it myself."

At this astonishing declaration the handsome young ruler of Savoy bowed low before the lovely widow and said, "Madame, I crave the honor of being your partner in the Easter egg contest of Bourg."

A great hush fell on the gay and splendid company. Not a man or woman among them all was so stupid as not to realize that Philibert's words meant the proffer of his heart and hand. For a moment the fair Margaret hesitated, and her cheeks flushed charmingly. Then she accepted her bold young wooer's arm and permitted him to lead her to the field.

"It is but a harmless diversion," she protested laughingly. "I shall be certain to break more than one egg before I have accomplished it."

"Break all of them if you will, madame, but do not break my heart," he returned presumptuously.

She would not reassure him by any spoken word, and amid the plaudits of the onlookers, they entered on the trial.

The Princess Margaret's doleful prediction was not fulfilled. At the end of the dance it was announced publicly that not a single egg had been broken.

"We have won, madame," said Philibert rapturously. "The Easter egg dance of Bourg has determined our fate. There is no appeal from its decision."

"I suppose you are right," she admitted softly. "One cannot do violence to the traditions of Bourg."

For four happy years this royal couple lived the ideal wedded life, and then Margaret was again a widow. Thus she remained to the close of her long life. She was so capable and so highly esteemed that she was made regent of Holland. She was also a poet of no mean distinction and left enough interesting letters to make two big volumes.

Interesting Easter Items.

Among the Gregorian Armenians the periodical "blessing of the house" takes place at Easter. This consists of the repetition of a prayer by the priest, accompanied by the burning of incense and the sprinkling with holy water in the "sala," or central room of the house.

On Easter eve in the Albanian highlands the young men assemble with lighted torches, which they wave about as they walk in procession through the village. Arriving at the nearest stream, they throw them in, crying, "Kore ya" (O maiden), "we throw thee into the water with these torches; so mayest thou never return," referring evidently to the malevolent spirits. When the priest comes to bless the house on Easter day the women throw hot embers after him as he leaves in order that he may take away all danger from fire.

## PAST OFFENSES DO NOT COUNT

### Standard's Attorney Interprets Sherman Act.

#### QUOTES RAILROAD CASE

David T. Watson, Who Represented Government in Suit to Dissolve Northern Securities Merger, Tells Judges That Rockefeller and Associates, in Capacity of Citizens, Had Right to Combine as Under 1882 Agreement.

St. Louis, April 1.—The temporary indisposition of the Standard's lawyer, Moritz Rosenthal of Chicago, interfered slightly with the program of the defense in the presentation of its reply to the government's suit to dissolve the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey for alleged Sherman act violations when the case was resumed before the four judges of the United States circuit court.

John G. Milburn of New York, the Standard's chief counsel, completed his opening argument, and Mr. Rosenthal was to have followed with a discussion of the facts, as claimed by the defense, leaving John J. Johnson of Philadelphia and David T. Watson of Pittsburgh to argue the law points and interpret the Sherman act from the viewpoint of the defendants.

Lawyer Watson represented the government in the "Northern Securities" case, and is credited with having won that suit for the government. In his interpretation of the decision in that now oft-quoted authority, Mr. Watson insisted that in the present case and that suit two separate and distinct principles of law were involved, and that under no stretch of the imagination could they be identical. Crux of his argument was, that the defendants could not be held for their conduct of years past, and that the only point the court could consider was whether it was acting in restraint of commerce, engaging in unfair competition, or doing any of the many other diverse things alleged on the fifteenth day of November, 1906, the day the petition in the present case was filed.

Touching upon the history of the Standard's past, Mr. Watson claimed Mr. Rockefeller and his associates had the legal right as citizens to combine as they did under the 1882 agreement, a right denied the two competing roads, not citizens, in the Northern Securities case.

## CLARK CIRCUIT COURT

Jerry Taylor, Plaintiff vs. Notice

Burl Turner, J. A. Hughes, Shirley Hadden, W. H. Noleini, Hardman & Royce and Winchester Bank, Defendants.

The above parties to this action and T. L. Nunan and Hadden & Tobin are notified that I as Master Commissioner of the Clark Circuit Court will at my office in Winchester, Kentucky, beginning on April 3rd, 1909, hear evidence as to the indebtedness of the firm of Taylor and Turner, as of April 3rd, 1907, preferences of any assets of said firm at said time the relative rights of the parties to said assets, with the purpose of settling said partnership. I will continue to hear evidence as to said questions till April 17th, 1909.

LEELAND HATHAWAY, M. C. C. C.

## ATTORNEY SHOT DOWN

Ordway Puller Caught by Police in Act of Breaking Into Saloon.

Richmond, Va., April 1.—Ordway Puller, a former member of the legislature and a prominent young attorney of this city, was shot by policemen just after having broken the window of a saloon. He is now in a hospital under the surveillance of the police on a felony charge. The officers heard the crash of glass and, presuming that some one was breaking into the place, ran to the scene and discovered Puller, who attempted to escape. Both officers fired, one of the shots taking effect in his leg.

Chase Has Smallpox.

Augusta, Ga., April 1.—Hal Chase, first baseman of the New York Americans, is at the detention hospital here undergoing treatment for smallpox. His physician has so diagnosed his illness. He will be detained 17 days longer. Other members of the team were vaccinated.

Prohibitionists Raid Swell Clubs.

Mobile, Ala., April 1.—Wholesale raids by detectives in the employ of the Prohibition party startled the city and resulted in the seizure of large quantities of liquors at the swell hotels and cafes of the town.

## CHICAGO CELEBRATES

### Anniversary of Lee's Surrender Observed With Banquet.

Chicago, April 1.—The forty-fourth anniversary of Lee's surrender at Appomattox, which marked the downfall of the Confederacy and the close of the great civil war, will be celebrated in this city tonight by a public banquet given by the Hamilton club to General Frederick Dent Grant, son of Lee's conqueror, and other distinguished guests.

The list of speakers at the banquet includes Senator Smith of Michigan and Senator Borah of Idaho, two of the senate's best orators, besides General Grant. Among the invited guests is Secretary of War Dickinson, who promised to attend, if his duties in Washington would permit of his leaving them. Senator Smith will speak on "The Integrity of the Nation," while Senator Borah will have for his subject "The Integrity of the State."

## Reckless Chauffeur Arrested.

New York, April 1.—Mrs. Ogden Goebel's automobile, with its owner and a chauffeur as its sole occupants, ran down and injured a street sweeper in Fifth avenue. The injured man was taken to the New York hospital, where he was found to have sustained internal injuries. The chauffeur, William Sullivan, was placed under arrest.

## FLAMES WIPE OUT TENEMENT DISTRICT

### Six Hundred People Homeless at Manchester N. H.

Manchester, N. H., April 1.—A large portion of the tenement house district, just south of the business center of the city, was wiped out by fire. It destroyed about 50 wooden three and four-story buildings. Six hundred men, women and children, mostly Greeks, were made homeless, and the loss is estimated at \$150,000. The flames were driven by a fierce gale through two city squares.

Help had to be summoned from Concord, Nashua, Rochester, Dover and Portsmouth, N. H., and from Lowell, Mass. Five companies of the New Hampshire National Guard were called out to help the police keep back the crowd. The personal property loss in the district was comparatively small. The cause of the fire is unknown.

## LOSES ONE HUSBAND

### Woman Witnesses Tragedy Caused by Admiration of Her Charms.

New Orleans, April 1.—Walking into a saloon in St. Louis street, Alfonso Di Matteo, in company with a woman, shot and killed Mike Galliano. The shooting was the outcome of a quarrel over the woman, whom both men claimed as a wife. Di Matteo was arrested after a flight through the streets, during which he flourished the smoking revolver in his hands. The woman escaped.

## KENTUCKY FAIRS, 1909.

Clark County August 3rd, 4 days.

Scott county, July 27th, 4 days.

Blue Grass, Lexington, August 9th, 6 days.

Rockcastle county, August 18, 2 days.

Bourbon county, September 7th, 5 days.

State Fair, Louisville, September 13th, 6 days.

Lincoln county, July 21, 3 days.

Spencer county, August 10, 4 days.

Mercer county, August 12, 3 days.

Knox county, August 18, 3 days.

Ewing, Ky., August 19, 3 days.

Shelby county August 24, 4 days.

Laurel county, August 24, 4 days.

Boone county, August 25, 4 days.

If secretaries of fairs will kindly furnish dates, we will carry them free of charge.

## ELEPHANT RUNS AMUCK

Kills Keeper and Plays Havoc With Circus Winter Quarters.

Des Moines, Ia., April 1.—"Tom," an elephant in the winter quarters of the Yankee Robinson circus here, suddenly ran amuck and, seizing his keeper, Charles Bellew, hurled him high in the air and then trampled him to death beneath his hoofs.

The infuriated beast then ran through the animal park, uprooting small trees, destroyed three circus wagons and demolished a bridge across a lagoon. Forty bullets were fired into the beast before it was subdued. Bellew was 44 years old.

## Hughes' Measure Knocked Out.

Albany, N. Y., April 1.—Direct nominations, as recommended by Governor Hughes, received their death blow in the assembly, at least so far as the present session of the legislature is concerned. By a vote of 112 to 25 the assembly decided to sustain the adverse report of the judiciary committee, which had registered its disapproval of the measure.

Santa Fe Banishes Saloons.

Santa Fe, N. M., April 1.—The city council of Santa Fe by a vote of 5 to 4 passed an ordinance closing all saloons in the city after Dec. 31, 1909. In the meantime the license fee for saloons will be doubled.

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